

## Eddie Sleeper

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**From:** Laura Tucker DeVries <tuckerinn24@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 11, 2018 4:46 PM  
**To:** Eddie Sleeper  
**Subject:** "Testimony for February 13, 2018 Energy Cmte Meeting"

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

My name is Laura DeVries. I rent a duplex at 565 Woodworth St., Marine City, MI 48039. I have lived here for almost 11 years. I am 65 years old, am on Social Security, live alone, and work part time.

My Edison bills have gone up drastically since the "smart" meter was installed in my unit last summer. I encouraged my landlord last Spring to replace old, leaky windows. He did in March 2017. I was looking forward to LOWER bills...not the exorbitant ones I have received in the last few months.

My unit is around 600 square feet. It is all electric, no gas on my street—yet. I have 2 bedrooms, a bathroom, kitchen and a small living room. When I leave the house, I dial down. When I am home I only heat the living room, 1 bedroom and the bathroom only when I am using it. As I said earlier, I am here alone. I shouldn't be using enough electricity to generate a bill of \$328.00!! I have friends and family that live in much larger, 2 story homes and their bills are less than half. Something is desperately wrong here!

I was shocked to see that amount when I opened my bill---I cannot pay it. I barely get by as it is. I called DTE and they said they would send someone out to check the meter—I never saw anyone and neither did my neighbor. I called them back in a few days and they said someone came out and my meter was working just fine.

Please let our voices be heard in Lansing!! I need help and will be forced to move if I cannot find relief for these ridiculous energy bills. It is pathetic that I will have to get a full time job just to pay my DTE bill.

My health does not warrant me working as hard as I currently do—much less having to work more. I have several health issues such as osteoarthritis, high blood pressure, COPD, and now a constant ringing in my ears since the "smart" meter was installed.

Please help me and let me know if any kind of help is available to me and other seniors who are barely making it by.

Thank you—Laura DeVries

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